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THE OLDEST AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN MARYLAND, AND FOR TEN YEARS THE ONLY ONE.

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**REDUCTION IN FARMERS' AND CAPITALISTS' PROFITS.**

We have occasionally noticed the disposition on the part of Farmers to complain of the low prices, which are so generally received for some of the products of the Farm. Certain facts have recently illustrated very forcibly the comparative prosperity of capitalists and that of the Farmer, which lead us to comment upon the subject once more.

The principal fact which has attracted our attention again to this subject was the call of New York city for a loan of three millions of dollars. The city proposed to pay three per centum per annum upon this loan. The result was that bids were offered the city amounting to many millions above the amount wanted; and it is confidently asserted by those best qualified to know and speak in the matter, that the loan would have been taken at two and one-half per centum.

Let us for a moment consider the meaning of this. The capitalist in years past has been loaning his money at the rate of

one per centum a month and sometimes at a higher rate. He has always been able to get at least his six per centum per annum. Now we find the income shrunk at least to one-half of this amount, and yet so eager is he to get the safe investment that many millions are offered above the three millions wanted. Capital is certainly earning far less in the present than ever before; while immense amounts are evidently earning nothing.

It is very true that the Farmer's wheat is low, that cotton is not as high as formerly, and perhaps some other crops have partaken of the general decline, but all the minor crops are bringing fair prices and the vegetable and fruit Farms are realizing good profits. Even though grain and cotton are not yielding their full income; the Farmers' comforts are secure, and the amount received for his crops never before would purchase so much as at this present moment.

Before resolving that we have, as Farmers, extra cause for complaint, we should weigh well all these circumstances and

compare our condition with that of other classes.

It is very true that the unsettled condition of the labor world has been one of the agencies to cause so large an amount of capital to seek safe investment even at a very low interest; but this has rendered the comforts of the laborer proportionally uncertain, in fact very precarious. The Farmer's condition is much more stable, because he is far less dependent for life's necessities and comforts than any other class.

The item of the New York city loan may at first be thought an exceptional case; but it is the same with any corporation which is regarded as a safe investment. The large railroads in good standing can get all the money they need at equally low figures, and the general government could undoubtedly reduce their interest-bearing bonds to even a lower figure than any of them are now bearing. In fact capital is at a fearful discount, because unemployed. It brings to its possessor far less in proportion to its value than the Farmer's land, the mechanic's tools or the manufacturer's machinery. The Farmer, however, stands at the head, for he is the source of supply for all other classes and he is the very last one to suffer in panics which break up and upset the entire order of the commercial world.

But let us feel that the Farmer's lot is fully equal to that of any other class. He can live better, he can be more healthful, he can enjoy more of earth's bounties, and he can thank God every day of his life that all the absolute necessities of his existence are within his reach, no matter what may be the complexion of the political world, or how great may be the panics of the monetary circles of our country.

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#### FERTILIZER FOR TOBACCO.

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While the fertilizer should be addressed to the wants of the soil rather than to the requirements of the plant, it is impossible for the Farmer to obtain an exact knowledge of the lack of the soil on the various parts of his Farm. Hence in compounding fertilizers it is proper to look first at the elements and the quantities of each used by the crop, and to vary the proportions of the various elements used in making the fertilizer only in accordance with that general knowledge of the soil of his Farm which every Farmer must have. It is impossible for the writer to know the general character of the soil of a Farm which he has never seen and has never been told about; but its owner can surely tell whether it is rich in, or lacking in lime, potash or magnesia, and to a considerable extent can vary the formula for a special fertilizer accordingly.

In forming a fertilizer for tobacco or for any other crop, we should remember that the fertilizer need furnish only nitrogen outside of those elements found in the ash of the plant, as it will get all its other food from the atmosphere. The composition of the ash of tobacco shows that it uses lime more largely than almost any other crop. But the ash is but a small part of the plant; hence, while the comparative amount of lime used is large, the absolute amount is small, and lime is usually found in sufficient quantities in the soil. Hence while lime may occupy a place in the fertilizer for tobacco, its place should not be a prominent one. Potash is an element more largely needed, although the plant does not use so much of it; but available potash is comparatively scarce in the average soil. Likely, the best way to apply potash is in the form of German kainit. Some may prefer muriate of potash. The cost of available potash is about the same in either case.

Tobacco is a gross feeder, as its luxuriant and heavy foliage shows, hence we may expect that a fertilizer for it should contain a good percentage of nitrogen, or what will furnish nitrogen. Northern growers find it very advantageous to plant tobacco on a heavy clover sod turned under, and this is because the clover yields nitrogen generously. Where it can not be so well used, gypsum can be recommended. The gypsum will furnish nitrogen in large quantities, and also the lime which the plant may need. Of course ashes should be used when they can be got to furnish potash.

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#### ADULTERATION.

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Adulteration has become one of the most grievous evils of our time. The effort made to secure legislation to protect in some way the makers of pure butter from the frauds of the manufacturers of oleo-margarine, has not only shown the remarkable magnitude of this adulteration of dairy products, but also that men who stand high in society and are accounted of financial integrity, are willing boldly to engage in this adulteration. Adulteration has become so common that it is no longer considered a misdemeanor or even a blot on a man's business record. We are kept constantly reminded of the misery and crime wrought by strong drink, and yet back of this the blame must be put largely upon the adulteration of strong drink. It is not whisky but what is sold as whisky, and is not. Drugs that are most poisonous in their nature, that *must* make demons of men, are used extensively in the manufacture of liquors. To get pure spirituous liquors is an almost impossible task—far more difficult than ninety-nine per cent. of our readers can ever know or will ever believe. We know well enough that our tea, coffee, spices, molasses, etc. are adulterated, and that the work is so deftly done that we are at the mercy of those who do

the criminal work. It is impossible for us to detect these adulterations. We can only know that with all our care the chances are overwhelmingly in favor of our eating and drinking—we know not what. Many of the substances used in the adulteration of these common articles of food are highly deleterious. It has lately been discovered that salt of tin is used in the adulteration of molasses. It gives brilliancy and clearness to the syrup. This salt is a poison; twelve grains in the veins or twenty-four in the stomach being sufficient to kill a dog. Such adulteration is a crime; so is all adulteration—a crime against the public health. It is time that the American people were aroused to the prevalence and and hurtfulness of adulteration, and took effective measures to end it.

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#### THE GRANGE.

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The grange organizations contain the elements of great good for the Farmer. It is composed of Farmers and their wives, sons and daughters, who have arrived at a suitable age to understand its workings. In this, is one of the chief sources of its power for good.

The fact of its being a secret organization is against it only so far as in the case of the many similar organizations, which have become widely known throughout our country. The "Free and Accepted Masons," the "Odd Fellows," the "Rechabites," the "Seven Wise Men" and a host of similar societies, all have their element of secrecy, which to some is very objectionable, while to others it is an attraction.

Providing as it does numerous occasions upon which Farmers with their wives and grown children shall be brought together, it accomplishes a great amount of good in a social way and gives opportunity for that interchange of opinion which is the stepping-stone to improvement. In fact it is one of the greatest sources of power in the

Farmer's behalf if properly conducted.

But a great danger exists, to which it may become subject. Designing persons may use them to carry out their personal designs, if they will conceal those designs with the guise of disinterested labor for agriculturists.

Some cautionary measures are a necessity if the grange is to continue its usefulness and add to its powers for good. The Farmers composing them should be very careful as to the passing of resolutions concerning matters about which they are not thoroughly posted. It is a very easy matter to place the Grange in a position where its opinion will be looked upon with *ridicule*, as the reflection of "one man's folly," instead of being the earnest and sincere opinion of a body of thoughtful Farmers.

We believe the Grange ought to be of great help to the Farmer. We are greatly in favor of Farmers organizations of every description. They are all needed and many more too. Before the Farmer can take his rightful stand in community he must have the power of combined organization and frequent consultation, general diffusion of intelligence and particularly an intelligent idea of facts bearing upon his condition as they exist in other parts of our land and even in other lands.

If the farmer always sold well he would make more money than most merchants, because he has "all there is in it," while they only sell on a margin. It is pitiful to see a man work hard all the year to grow a crop, then lose five to ten cents on the bushel or one to two cents on the pound for lack of attention to the important art of selling.

#### "HISTORY OF THE MARYLAND GRANGE."

We are so often asked as to the condition of the "Grange" in the State of Maryland, and particularly as to the facts whether it is increasing or diminishing in power and numbers in this State that we here give the principal facts from an article in the Baltimore *Morning Herald*, with the title above given. We are not personally acquainted with these statistics of the order, but we presume the author of the article from which we quote has taken his figures from authoritative sources. We had supposed it was stronger than these figures would warrant, but we give them now as a conclusive answer to the many questions we have received, believing them to be reliable:

"The first grange was organized in this State in Kent county, on the Eastern Shore, in 1873. The farmers embraced the new scheme in great numbers, and it spread like wild-fire. In March, 1874, at the first annual convocation of the members of the society, it appeared that there were then in existence 40 granges with an aggregate of 1,482 members. During the following year the increase in membership was almost marvelous. In March, 1875, there were 108 granges with 4,584 members, and in December of that same year there were 154 granges with 5,657 members. The grange kept on increasing, and in December, 1876, while the actual number of granges remained the same, (154), the membership had been swelled to 5,921 persons. This was the high-water mark of the grange plan in Maryland.

After the first two years' experiment with the grange plan, those who went into the movement for political purposes, or from motives of curiosity, or to further their financial interests solely, gradually commenced to withdraw, and in December, 1877 the number of granges had fallen to 145, and there were then only 5,264 members, a loss of nearly 700 members and of 9 granges.

During 1878 the decrease in the number of granges and of members went on unflaggingly, and in December of that

year there were only 110 granges and 3,520 members. During the next two years, 1880 and 1881, the grange remained about stationary with respect to its numerical strength, but in 1882 it again began to decline, for various reasons. During the two subsequent years the strength of the grange remained at about where it was at the close of the year 1882; but there has since been another slight decline. At present the grange numbers 69 subordinate bodies, with 2,085 members. This is only about 600 members more than the grange had at the close of the first year of its existence, and only a little over one third of the numerical strength exhibited when it had reached the maximum of its prosperity. Over one half the highest number of subordinate granges remain, showing that the main loss of strength has been in the smaller lodges, in the thickly settled communities. At the close of the first year of the grange system's operation the average number of members in each subordinate grange was 37. When the grange was at its zenith it was 32, and now it is 30.

The grange system found its first strong foothold in the southern counties, mostly on the Western Shore. It never got much of a grip in the lower counties on the Eastern Shore, but every county in the State has at some time been represented in the State Grange. The grange is now strongest in Montgomery county, and after that in Howard county.

It is a matter of interesting conjecture whether the grange in this State has reached a substantial basis of numbers and influence, or whether it will continue to decrease.

At one time the grangers were represented in the State Legislature by between 25 and 30 members, they never left their private lines, and the grange, *per se*, never effected any specific legislation in its interests. It exerted, however, a general influence upon legislation at different periods."

PROF. L. T. BONHAM, one of the best authorities on swine in the United States, says, pay no attention to nostrums or drugs that are peddled through the country. The sooner we learn that there is no cure for hog cholera the better.

#### OUR FOREIGN LETTER.

Paris, June 30, 1886.

I do not know if a statue to Sir Walter Raleigh, for having introduced the potato into Ireland, has been erected, but France has just done so to her Raleigh, Antoine Parmentier, who popularized, rather than discovered the cultivation of the tuber as an article of diet. Parmentier was born in Montdidier, near Amiens, in 1737. He was the son of a linen draper, and was apprenticed to an apothecary. He accompanied in this capacity, the French army during its invasion of Hanover. Taken prisoner by the Prussians, he was enabled during his captivity to study the value of the potato with the victors.

When he returned to France in 1763, Parmentier devoted every moment of his leisure to a potato-crusade, by speech, writings and experiment. In the greater part of France, the potato was not cultivated in 1774, the Parisians would not allow that "poisonous root" to be sold in the city. Parmentier was not discouraged; he analyzed the tubers, showed they were excellent food, and a capital aid to cereals in time of scarcity. Voltaire, who mocked at everything, wrote, that the potato was simply "a public amusement"—a remark that Thiers applied half a century ago to locomotives. Aided by Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette, Parmentier was allotted a few acres of sandy soil outside the city, to cultivate potatoes, during the first experiment, sentries had to guard the plots to prevent the plants from being destroyed by the incredulous citizens, the latter were subsequently enchanted at the spectacle of the field covered with a deep green foliage and white lilac blossoms. Parmentier collected a basket of the flowers, made them into small bouquets, and presented them to the king and queen, at Versailles. Their majesties wore the flower the same evening at the royal dinner, their example being imitated by the courtiers.

The cause of the potato was won; it was a sealed success, when Parmentier sent a dish of potatoes—"the first fruits"—to the royal kitchen, and which the court pronounced to be delicious, some were cooked in their jackets, and some peeled; some were baked, others fried, and the rest served in white butter. In presence of this victory, Voltaire was the first to com-

pliment Parmentier on his triumph in making known a new food to his fellow-countrymen. But the cause had still to be won with the populace, they were now passionately curious to taste the new root. Parmentier put up a notice that any persons found stealing potatoes from his field would be prosecuted. Like all prohibited fruit, the temptation was only augmented by this warning, at night-fall the curious flocked to help themselves, and Parmentier winked at the thieving—which was the best advertisement for his ends. The people nick-named him the “Potatoman,” as they now do the agricultural—the “Potato club.”

In October 1787, Parmentier lifted what was left of his potatoes, and gave a grand banquet, at which Arthur Young and Lavoisier the chemist, among other celebrities, were present. Potatoes were the sole dishes served, and in as many ways as Grimod lays down for cooking eggs. The guests proposed to call the potato *Parmentier*—an honor the propagandist declined. He only took the flower of the plant for his coat-of-arms, as the illegitimate brother of Napoleon III—the Duc de Morney, did the “Hortensia” flower, for his escutcheon, in honor of his mother, queen Hortense. Parmentier died in December 1813, as he had lived a bachelor, at the ripe age of 76, and was buried in Pere Lachaise, where a tomb is erected to his memory, not by agriculturists, but by the apothecaries, and who place bouquets of potato flowers annually, to decorate his grave.

#### Value of Roots, Stubble, &c.

What is the value of the residue—roots and stubble, left behind in the soil after the crop has been raised? The materials taken from the air and the soil during the development of the plant, are not all exported with the harvest. There remains in the soil some quantities, very variable in chemical richness and amount, following the nature of the crop, and cultivated to enrich the layer of arable earth.

Phosphoric acid, nitrogen, lime, magnesia and potash are the chief plant-food ingredients left behind. Those crops whose residue contains most mineral or nitrogenous substances will proportionably be the most valuable. Taking some lucerne, red clover, sainfoin, rye, colza, oats, wheat and barley, and carefully removing all for-

eign substances from the roots and remnant stems, an acre of lucerne and red clover will leave of such residue,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  tons; rye and sainfoin,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  tons; wheat, 26 cwts., oats, 28 cwts., and barley, 18 cwts. In mineral richness, clover, rye, oats, and lucerne respectively, are the best, and barley the worst; while in point of nitrogen the order is: clover, lucerne, sainfoin, rye, colza, oats, wheat and barley. In both cases clover is at the top, and barley at the bottom of the comparisons. Further; clover and barley leave behind in the soil the following proportions, in pounds per acre of—lime, 257 and 38; magnesia, 48 and 3; potash, 81 and 10: phosphoric acid, 74 and 12.

Hence, the quantities of nitrogenous and mineral matters thus left behind in the form of stubble and roots, is not unimportant, and to be remembered when manuring for succeeding crops. But it must not be forgotten at the same time, these food ingredients cannot be utilized till the residue has been destroyed and transformed under the influence of the microbes of the soil and chemical action.

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#### Wages in 1800.

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In McMaster's History we are told what workmen were paid at the beginning of this century: On the Pennsylvania canals the diggers ate the coarsest diet, were housed in the rudest sheds, and paid \$6 a month from May to November, and \$5 a month from November to May. Hod carriers and mortar mixers, diggers and choppers, who, from 1793 to 1800, labored on the public buildings and cut the streets and avenues of Washington City, received \$70 a year, or, if they wished, \$60 for all the work they could perform from March 1 to December 20. The hours of work were invariably from sunrise to sunset. Wages at Albany and New York were three shillings, or, as money went, forty cents per day; at Lancaster \$8 to \$10 a month; elsewhere in Pennsylvania workmen were content with \$6 in summer and \$5 in winter. At Baltimore men were glad to be hired at eighteen pence a day. None, by the month, asked more than \$6. At Fredericksburg the price of labor was about \$5 to \$7.

To the Editor of the Maryland Farmer.

### STEEL WIRE FENCE.

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I was among the first to build steel wire fence in my neighborhood, and many did not hesitate to call me a fool. Some were certain that if I stretched the wire tight the frosts of the winter would snap it, while if I did not stretch it tight would sag in summer to such an extent as to allow hogs and even sheep to pass through readily. I must confess that this very thing occasioned me some uneasiness. I have since learned that my fear was very foolish. Yet others were sure that smooth wire would not make an effective fence, and that if I used barbed wire every animal I had would soon suffer a horrible death. I have since learned that smooth wire will make a good fence, but I prefer barbed wire, and have used it almost altogether, and not one of my animals has yet been injured. I prefer a fence of two boards, six inches wide, below, and three or four strands of wire above, because it is just as good and cheaper than all wire, it being necessary to put the wires very close together below to turn pigs, if all wire is used. I do not find it necessary to use tin tags or wooden blocks to mark the fence to the animals. Farm animals have good memories, and when they are once informed where the fence is they will not forget its location. When a line of new fence has been built, before I turn the horses into the field I lead them along the fence and allow them to smell of it; and the cattle and sheep I drive along it. The animals will not forget its location and run on it unawares, even in the dark. It is remarkable how keen is the sense of location in the lower animals, and doubtless it saves them from many a mishap. If all wire is used, a post every thirty-two or even every forty feet will answer, but if a part board is used, posts for them must be put every eight feet, if boards sixteen feet long are used, and not farther apart than eight feet, no matter what the length of the boards used may be. For those posts, however, which are used only because boards are employed, the pieces of posts which have rotted off, or even stout stakes driven into the ground may be used, as they need reach only eighteen inches above ground, which will be far enough

for the higher board to be fastened to them. When I have set the posts for this fence, I draw a furrow along each side, throwing the dirt towards the posts, this makes the posts deeper in the ground; it drains the water away from them, and the bottom board or wire can be put higher up, thus saving at least one strand of wire. The fence, though containing one less strand, is even more effected, as it is really as high above the surface of the ground upon which the animals stand, while the furrow deters animals from attempting to jump. I do not know why this is, but I know that it is so. Likely the furrow bothers the animals in getting a proper footing preparatory to jumping, and also makes the fence look more formidable than what it really is.

I prefer wire fence because it is durable, effective, economical, occupies but little ground, and does not afford a refuge to vermin. Only galvanized wire should be used, wire that will rust is a nuisance. I believe that painted wire will not last so long by some years as galvanized wire. Good galvanized wire will last longer than any posts I know of. If the fence is properly made no animal can get through it, and I have never seen one get over it. If you have a wire fence about your field or truck patch, you may sleep sound at night; your mind will not be harassed with probabilities of the farm animals breaking in where they should not be. Considering durability and effectiveness, wire fence is a very economical fence. It costs less than board fence, as posts are saved, also the labor of setting them. Virginia rail fence occupies a strip of land eight feet wide, a hedge, taking into account the land impoverished by its greedy roots, more than twice this space. This land is not only lost to cultivation, but often grows weeds, and usually is a refuge for small animal and insect-pests that damage grain crops, vegetables or fruit trees. The last two items are of greater amount than they are usually considered to be, and make wire fence clearly the most economical fence yet devised.

Adam's Co., Ill. JOHN M. STAHL.

## A NEW IMPLEMENT NEEDED.

[Discussion in Boston in the office of the *Mass. Ploughman* upon improved agricultural machinery.]

Mr. Hersey said: "I would agree that the plough is the most important implement on the farm. I do not agree that so great an advance has been made with it. I believe that the implement to take the place of the plough has yet to be invented. I believe that we have got but a little ways in the development. Yet we have got some ways, but we must first ask the question, what do we plough our land for? Is it for the purpose simply of carefully turning it bottom side up? If that is the object, then we have made great progress with some of our present ploughs. We have ploughs that will very carefully turn the land bottom side up, but I don't understand that to be really what we want. I understand that we want to pulverize our soils, and that we want also to mix fertilizers with the soil at the same time. That is more the object which we want, and we have invented a great many implements for the purpose of following the plough. Now I would say a good word for the ingenuity of the inventors who have accomplished so much with these tools. But my idea is that we should have some implement to do this work a great deal better than the plough. I use the cultivator a great deal instead of the plough, and think it is much better than the plough where you don't want to stir the earth to much depth. There are some crops for which I think it is of the highest importance not to stir the earth to much depth, but to stir enough so that fertilizers can be applied. That is, we want to plough the soil and manure it at the same time. But with a plough you do not do this, but simply turn the soil bottom up. The plough brings up the earth from the bottom, and if you do not plough too deep you will benefit your soil. Now you may be enriching your farm, but it is not always necessary to turn the soil bottom up. At least, I do not think it is, and therefore I believe that we need some other implement, you may call it a plough or what you please, to take the place of a plough, but some implement which shall do this work all at once. If our friend Knox will in-

vent such an implement, he will be more of a public benefactor than he ever has been, much as he has done for us. We all agree that this would be an advance upon the plough. There is a field open to some inventor to enter and do a great benefit, I believe, to the whole world. The time is coming when we shall be able to go on to our fields with an implement which shall so pulverize and manure and fertilize the soil at one operation that we shall be able to go on and plant our crops. We want some new implement, which, instead of simply turning over the soil, will also prepare it for the seed. And I think that it is coming, sir."

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Nourishment and Food for the Sick.

There are several beliefs popularly held concerning the care of the sick people, that should long ago have been exploded. One of these is that an invalid will "relish something right off the table," better than he will "sick folks' messes." This may be true in a few rare instances, but the fact remains that the appetite of nearly every convalescent is apt to be tempted by some delicacy prepared expressly for him, rather than by a portion of the food served at the family board. There is something, too, in the thought of the loving consideration that prompted the concoction of the special dainty which lends a flavor not to be imparted to food cooked without particular reference to the one who should occupy, for the time being, the most important position in the house.

Abstain from overloading a patient's plate. This caution is peculiarly necessary with sweets, as a surfeit of these is apt to cause future aversion.—*C. T. H. in Good Housekeeping.*

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No farmer should cultivate more land than he can well attend to. There is nothing gained by distributing the labor and manure. Everything in the way of thorough cultivation should be removed, and every yard of distance saved in travelling over the ground to grow a crop, by concentrating the labor, lessens the cost.

## AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES.

Prof. Wm. Saunders, F. R. S. C., having been appointed by the Minister of Agriculture, of Canada, to compile information in reference to agricultural colleges and experimental farm stations, visited in person all the agricultural colleges in the United States and has made an elaborate report in reference to them.

We have been greatly surprised at the tendency of remarks in our secular papers and also by men of prominence and intelligence, who should be better posted, giving the general idea that agricultural colleges are not connected with agricultural pursuits, have no Farms or Farm experiments, and are generally of little or no value in that connection.

We make the extracts below to show how much these parties need to be enlightened, and at the same time to afford them the opportunity of correcting any previously formed opinions by the light of solid facts.

Before the so-called State Farmers' Association, held in Baltimore, last February, a prominent educationalist stated, that "no agricultural colleges in our country had experimental stations connected with them," using very strong language in connection with the statement, and the New York *Sun* prints the following exhibition of ignorance, hardly conceivable in this age for such a live paper:

"There has never been an agricultural school in any part of the world that was worth laughing at, and there is not now. In this country they have pretty generally gone out, but we believe they still keep one or two in Germany; yet they are useless concerns, doomed to early extinction; and when they are gone there will be no reason to be sorry for it."

We hope the array we give of agricultural colleges from the disinterested report of the Canadian professor will be a sufficient answer to all such statements. We would also call the attention of the commissioners

on an experimental station, appointed by direction of the legislature, to these facts, so laboriously gathered by Prof. Saunders, who has compiled them in a wholly disinterested spirit and therefore without expecting that they would teach anything but actual facts. We should be glad if these reports of Prof. Saunders could reach every Farmer's family in our country, that they might know the almost incalculable benefit these agricultural colleges are accomplishing for our agricultural population.

It is appropriate to add here the stirring words of J. W. Sanborn, of Missouri:

"The day is dawning when we shall all look up to agricultural education and none feel that it need to slink away to obscure places, and hide itself from comparison and association with other lines of education. When the grandest and fullest of all the learned callings that is nursed by all the natural sciences, takes the place nature intended for it, when all shall see that the sun of its literature outshines the suns of all other industrial literatures, then its course of studies will be the honored course of the universities."

## EXTRACTS FROM PROFESSOR SAUNTER'S REPORTS:

## ALABAMA.

The Agricultural and Mechanical College of Alabama is situated near Auburn. The quantity of land occupied is 100 acres. Total value of grounds buildings and apparatus being \$100,000. Endowment fund \$253,500. Total revenue \$22,500.

An experimental field of twenty acres is devoted to experiments in the cultivation of field crops.

## ARKANSAS.

The Industrial University of Arkansas, designed for imparting instruction in agriculture and mechanical arts is located near the town of Fayetteville. The endowment fund is \$130,000, the land and appliances are valued at \$170,000. The annual income from the land grant is \$10,400, which is supplemented by annual appropriations from the State.

In connection with the agricultural department there is an experimental farm, also a chemical laboratory.

**CALIFORNIA.**

The University of California obtained the agricultural college land grant. The amount derived from this source was \$566,280. The University is located at Berkeley. It has grounds, buildings and appliances valued at \$1,000,000, and a total endowment fund of \$1,678,386.

The annual income from the proceeds of agricultural college lands is \$39,226, a large proportion of which is devoted to agricultural teaching and experimental work.

**COLORADO.**

The State Agricultural College of Colorado is located at Fort Collins. It is endowed with 90,000 acres of selected lands.

The expenses of the institution are met at present by a special tax of one-fifth of a mill on State valuation, which gives it an income of about \$20,000 a year.

The larger part of the college farm is under cultivation, the work being chiefly experimental.

**GEORGIA.**

The Georgia State College of Agriculture is a branch of the State University at Athens. The endowment fund from sale of agricultural lands amounts to \$242,202, which yields an annual revenue of about \$17,000. Many valuable experiments have been conducted on this farm.

**ILLINOIS.**

The University of Illinois is located about midway between the towns of Champaign and Urbana. It has an endowment fund of \$337,000, realized from the sale of public lands, and the buildings and land are valued at \$400,000.

There are devoted to the uses of the department of agriculture two farms, one of 410 acres, known as the "Stock Farm," and one of 180 acres, designated the "Experimental Farm."

The total expenses vary from \$60,000 to \$70,000 per annum.

**IOWA.**

The Iowa State Agricultural College is situated in the central county of the State. It has an endowment fund from proceeds of public lands of \$637,800, and the value of the land, buildings and appliances is \$1,000,000. The college domain includes 700 acres.

Experiments with sheep and in butter-making are carried on here.

**KANSAS.**

The State Agricultural College of Kansas is situated about a mile and one-half from the town of Manhattan. The land occupied by the institution is 364 acres. The endowment fund amounts to nearly \$500,000, and the value of the land, buildings and equipments is \$161,500.

The experimental work carried on has included the testing varieties of corn, also 65 sorts of wheat.

The annual revenue is about \$35,000.

**LOUISIANA.**

The State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College is situated at Baton Rouge. The combined endowment funds amount to \$318,000, and the land, buildings and appliances are valued at \$350,000.

The annual income derived from the endowment fund is \$14,500, to which must be added an annual State appropriation of about \$10,000, making \$24,500 in all.

**MAINE.**

The State College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts is located about a mile from the town of Orono. The land occupied by the institution is 376 acres, the greater part of which is under cultivation. The college was established in 1868. About \$130,000 have been spent in the erection of buildings and other permanent improvements.

The endowment fund derived from land grants is \$132,500; the interest is nearly \$8,000. In addition to this, the college receives direct subsidies from the State.

The interest from the endowment fund brings the college about \$8,000 a year, to which must be added \$7,000 from the State, and about \$2,000 from tuition fees—\$17,000 in all.

**MARYLAND.**

The Maryland Agricultural College is located at College Station. The land occupied comprises 286 acres. The endowment fund is \$112,500; the value of land, buildings and appliances is \$100,000. The main building is an imposing structure, 120 feet long, 54 feet wide, and five stories high, and is well arranged for the purpose.

**MASSACHUSETTS.**

The Massachusetts Agricultural College and Experiment Station is situated within about a mile of Amherst, and occupies 382 acres of land. The endowment fund from sale of public lands is \$246,314, which has been increased by the State to \$360,067. The value of land, buildings and appliances is \$205,771.

Among the more important experiments with field crops which have been conducted here are the following: The growing of sugar-beets, the manufacture of sugar from them and trials of their value as food for cattle. The horticultural department occupies 45 acres.

The revenue from the endowment fund is \$13,000, which, by tuition fees and income from other sources is increased to about \$25,000.

**MICHIGAN.**

The Michigan State Agricultural College is located three miles from Lansing, the Capital, and occupies 675 acres of land. The land is valued at \$75 an acre, and the land, buildings and appliances at \$338,471. The endowment fund is \$339,000, with a large quantity of agricultural lands still unsold.

On the farm a regular system of rotation of crops is maintained. Experiments in the cultivation of grain are carried on.

The annual revenue from the endowment fund is \$23,734 which is liberally supplemented by State appropriations as needed.

**MINNESOTA.**

The college of agriculture and mechanic arts in this State is located at Minneapolis. The productive funds of the University are \$575,000; the value of land, buildings and appliances, \$220,000.

The income from productive funds is about \$35,000; from State appropriations, \$23,000—total \$58,000. There being about 500 students in all in attendance,

**MISSISSIPPI.**

Agricultural and Mechanical College of Mississippi is situated about a mile and a-half from Starkville. It has 1,700 acres of land, about 600 of which is under cultivation.

The endowment fund is \$113,575, the land, buildings and appliances are estimated at \$203,400. The leading object of this college is declared to be to benefit agriculture and the mechanic arts.

The field experiments include the testing of the value of different fertilizers on crops of cotton, corn, sugar-cane, sorghum, wheat and other cereals.

From interest on endowment fund \$5,678 which is supplemented by State appropriations.

**MISSOURI.**

The Agricultural and Mechanical College of Missouri is located at Columbia, on the Missouri River. The endowment fund is \$219,000; value of buildings, land and appliances, \$150,000. The college farm consists of 640 acres, has a variety of soils and is well watered. A large amount of experimental work has been done, bearing directly on agriculture.

The interest from the endowment fund is about \$11,000, which is supplemented by State appropriations.

**NEBRASKA.**

The Agricultural College of Nebraska is situated at Lincoln. The college farm consists of 320 acres of land, all improved with good buildings. The institution is sustained by annual appropriations from the State.

**NEW YORK.**

The New York State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts is associated with Cornell University, at Ithaca, founded by the liberality of Ezra Cornell. The endowment fund obtained from the sale of agricultural lands is \$473,412. The total income of the university from all sources is about \$130,000.

More than 100 varieties of wheat have been tested and their relative merits discussed in the bulletins and reports which have been issued by the station.

**OHIO.**

The State University of Ohio is situated in the city of Columbus, where it occupies 340 acres of land. The endowment fund from the sale of agricultural lands amounts to \$538,000.

In connection with this university there is not only a department of agriculture, but also an experimental station, both institutions doing good work in the direction of practical agriculture.

In the experimental plots 118 varieties of wheat have been tested.

The income from the endowment fund is \$32,270. Tuition fees and State appro-

priations bring the revenue up to about \$52,000. The expenditure is about \$50,000.

#### PENNSYLVANIA.

The Pennsylvania State College of Agriculture is located in Centre County. The endowment fund belonging to this institution is \$500,000; the estimated value of lands, buildings and appliances, \$451,600.

The college owns three experimental farms—one of nearly 300 acres, one in Chester County, of 100 acres, and one in Indiana County, of 100 acres.

One hundred and forty-four plots of one-eighth of an acre each have been set aside for some years past for continuous experiments.

#### SOUTH CAROLINA.

The fund derived from the national land grant, amounting to \$191,800, is divided equally between the South Carolina College of Agriculture, at Columbia, for whites, and the Claflin College, at Orangeburg, for colored people.

A farm is attached to the Columbia College, where students acquire a practical acquaintance with farming operations.

#### TEXAS.

The State Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas is located at College Station. The endowment fund from the land grant is \$204,000; the land, buildings and appliances are valued at \$260,000; the income is \$14,280.

A special course of lectures are given in agriculture. It has 10 acres devoted to experimental plots.

#### VIRGINIA.

The endowment fund from land grant to Virginia is \$285,000. Two-thirds of this sum was set apart for the Virginia Agricultural College, at Blacksburg; the other third given to the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute. The Blacksburg College has a farm of 300 acres of land, well stocked, where experiments in agriculture are conducted. The total income is about \$20,000.

#### WISCONSIN.

The State Agricultural College of Wisconsin is a department of the University of Wisconsin is located near Madison. The endowment funds from agricultural lands is \$267,330; other productive funds amount to \$230,660—or \$497,990 in all. The value of the grounds, buildings and apparatus is placed at \$455,000.

Field experiments have been continued and include the testing of a number of varieties of corn, wheat and other cereals. The entire income of the university is nearly \$83,000.

#### FIVE CENTS A BUSHEL FOR CORN.

From the *Chicago Tribune* of May 28, 1886: "A receiver in this city yesterday forwarded to a shipper in Nebraska, five cents per bushel as his share on a consignment of corn. The property had been sold in a store here at twenty-seven cents per bushel, twenty-two of which went to pay railroad cost of transportation, the storage and commission. In another case this week the Nebraska shipper received the magnificent sum of \$26.50, being the whole amount coming to him from the sale of a carload of some 550 bushels of corn, the railroad freight on which to this city was \$147.50. The average of charges on these two parcels was five times, and the warehouse charges alone one-quarter the sum remitted to the country shipper of the corn." "At the market prices of this week, the grain dealer who ships corn to Chicago from the other side of the Missouri River does not receive more than about 16 cents per bushel on the average, which is 40 per cent of the selling price here. The other 60 per cent is absorbed in railroad and warehouse expenses. It is fair to presume that the first shipper (the grain dealer) takes to himself at least another 5 per cent, or he never could pay expenses and stand the loss involved in a few transactions like those noted above."

[ED. The above very suggestive paragraph teaches a very strong lesson to those who are about to seek new homes in an agricultural country. It says, in just as strong words as though printed: "Why go to the great West when the same sacrifice, the same labor, the same economy, the same suffering and deprivations would bring vastly greater prosperity to the East. Maryland offers advantages to all seekers of pleasant homes, which no other part of our country can surpass. The West has its many disadvantages to more than counterbalance the productive soil and the cheap lands.]

To the Editor of the Maryland Farmer.

**FIGHTING THE COLORADO.**

A homely maxim gives the advice to "fight the devil with fire;" and so it is coming to be understood that the best way to conquer harmful insects is to fight them with other insects.

The Colorado beetle, the great pest of the potato field, seems now our most vigorous and formidable insect foe, and, to those who do not like to use poison, entirely unmanagable. True, in the very earliest stage, and before the potato vine attain much size, hand-picking is sufficiently effective. But once let a crop of eggs get hatched out upon the plants, and the farmer who depends upon hand-picking, or anything short of a thorough poisoning, is doomed to defeat.

But is there no better remedy than poison, which many, we may say the majority do not care to use? There may be; and perhaps it is to be found in fostering and rearing such friendly insects as will prey upon the Colorado or its eggs. So far as our observation has extended, there is no parasitic insect that attacks the Colorado beetle, either in its young or mature state. Nor will any bird or fowl, so far as we know, eat them. He seems to be an "iron clad," without a foe, save man.

It is known, however, that the eggs of this beetle, if not the bug itself, has at least one parasite—the lady-bug, or coccinella. The eggs of our potato pest are favorite food for the common species of the lady-bug, and we have found them time and again seated by a bunch of the eggs, and devouring them.

Herein lies our hope. We must multiply our stock of lady-bugs about our premises, and get them so numerous as to eat up all the eggs of the Colorado. The lady-bug is entirely and largely beneficial, and preys upon many other insects besides the Colorado. There are several species, all helpful, and the bug is so well known as to require no description. We should encourage it to multiply, and thus make it our ally in fighting the Colorado.

Surry Co., Va.

B. W. J.

**BUCKWHEAT.**

This can be sown at any time as a catch crop, when it is to be used as a green manure, and for this purpose is one of the very best plants we have; it makes an even growth, and on even and ordinary soil often a very heavy one, and can be ploughed under, and will aid materially in loosening up a stiff soil or rendering available the fertility left in the ground. It makes valuable bee pasturage, and if sown for grain, is valuable either for flour or to be fed to stock. When sown for grain the soil should be well prepared for ploughing and harrowing thoroughly so as to get in a good tilth, and then sow the seed broadcast, using from two to three pecks of seed to the acre. Harrow or brush after seeding to cover the seed and then roll carefully; this will aid materially in securing good germination, especially if the soil is dry, as it so often is in July. As it will not fill until the nights at least are cool, it should be sown as late as possible, so as to be able to mature before hard frost; generally, any time before the middle of July will be plenty early. If sown to be ploughed under it can be sown at any time, either in the spring or summer. Ordinarily it makes a very rapid growth, and is one of the few plants that will bear flowers, partially matured and ripened grain. It threshes or shatters off very easily if dry when harvested, and for this reason should be cut while the dew is on, but before the frost injures the crop. When it can be done the best plan is to thresh in the field, so as to avoid wasting as much as possible. This can be done by flailing or tramping. It threshes very easily, and can be cleaned by running through a fanning mill or by the wind, pouring down on a sheet, allowing the the wind to blow the chaff and thresh out. The straw is of very little value, except for bedding or to cover sheds. The grain should be kept dry and be stirred frequently until it is thoroughly dried out. If stored in bulk and allowed to remain undisturbed it is very liable to heat and spoil. It can hardly be regarded as a sure crop. Yet often large yields are secured. There is one advantage with it if the grain does not fill so as to be worth cutting it will pay to plough the crop under so that

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there need be no loss. While it is not an exhaustive crop it should not be sown either for grain or as a manure upon land intended for corn as the following crop. In a system of rotation of crops with green manuring to keep or build up the fertility of the soil, buckwheat can always be made a part.—*N. J. Shepherd in Journal of Agriculture.*

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Hungarian Grass and Millet.  
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Hungarian grass and millet may be put in this month; and, when land and season are just right, they will furnish a large amount of good fodder in return for little labor. The land needs to be rich and a deep loam. These are crops which exhaust the soil very much, and the land should be rich to start with. An ordinary phosphate does not seem to supply the material taken out by these crops, as it does when a crop of corn or corn fodder is raised. Perhaps one reason of this may be found in the fact that the corn roots leave much more vegetable matter in the soil than does the finer roots of the millet, and although chemists, or rather fertilizer manufacturers, claim that this vegetable matter is of no other value than for the amount of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash which it contains, and which can be furnished in their compounds, yet it may be that this claim is not well founded, and that humus, as they call this vegetable matter, does possess some valuable properties which they do not take into account. At any rate, it seems to be an established fact that if the same amount of manure or fertilizer is used for corn fodder and for millet, the crop of the former may be twenty tons to the acre, and of the latter not more than one-quarter of that amount, and the land will grow a much better crop after the corn than after the millet, if given the same treatment.

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In England they are now registering goats and kids from good milk families. Although it is being ridiculed there is no reason for refusing to separate the serviceable goats from those that are of but little value.

THE DEPTH TO PLOUGH.

Upon the matter of ploughing there has been a difference of opinion, and one that is likely to continue to exist. There have been warm advocates of deep ploughing and those equally as earnest in advocacy of shallow ploughing; of them it may be said, both are right and both are wrong. The depth of ploughing should be regulated largely by the character and condition of the soil; and so when an esteemed contemporary advises its readers that "ploughing should be as deep as possible" without a suggestion touching the kind or condition of soil, we think that the farmer should exercise a little of his own judgement before acting upon the advice given. Take for instance a light sandy loam; it is very difficult to discover any advantage that comes from deep ploughing. In a deep clayey and tenacious soil it is very easy to discover that it would be of advantage that it be broken up and pulverized so as to admit of free passage of the roots of plants. And upon that point, the loose, porous or firm, compact condition of the soil to be ploughed is the important point which will determine the manner of ploughing. Eminently successful farmers who have a sandy loam to work recommend only three or four inches as the depth of ploughing for a crop of corn. This suggests also another point to be considered in the consideration of the question, and that is the crop that is to be grown. Thus if a sandy loam was to be planted to potatoes it would be considered the height of folly to plough shallow for a crop of potatoes. As a general rule we have had better success with potatoes from planting them to a good depth, and especially so upon a soil that was inclined to be dry. But on the other hand, if the soil was inclined to be wet, we should avoid this, unless we used a good supply of coarse, strawy manure under the soil. A very sensible view of the question of depth of ploughing would seem to suggest that each farmer must judge of his own necessities and not quarrel with his neighbor because his conditions require a different practice.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

**THE DAIRY.**

To the Editor of the Maryland Farmer.

**FOUR QUESTIONS IN BUTTER MAKING.**

A lady in Catonsville, Md., writes me the following enquires to be answered in the FARMER:

1. I practice deep setting; use the "Davis Swing Churn"; have four cows, two fresh, two farrow one year. Last churning refused to come after two days' churning, although cream was at 65°, swelled and foamed the churn nearly full. Butter never came.

2. Is it any use to churn longer than twelve hours, or so?

3. Can cream be to warm to bring butter?

4. Could you furnish a series of articles detailing in full the process of butter-making, from the milk-setting to completion?"

In reply to the above, especially the first question, one is at a loss for an exact reply, because the circumstances are not made clear, particularly in regard to the condition of the cream, how it was cared for, how warmed up to 65°, etc. In the first place, there must have been a radical difference in the quality of the milk from which the cream was raised. The cream from "fresh" milk and the cream from the milk of cows a year in milk would be of wholly different qualities; the one at its best state for making butter the other, owing to its predominating cheesey matter and tenacious quality making an inferior butter. From the fact that the "Davis Churn" was about one-third full, I imagine that the cream was of nearly a week's collection. This would cause the cream from the farrow cows and milk to become excessively acid and destroyed to a large extent with its firm butter qualities. As no trouble seems to have occurred before, we take it then that there was some new influence at work upon the cream, such as hotter weather or "muggy" weather with thunder showers. This would have a different influence upon the cream, and churning it at 65° caused a development of carbonic acid gas; and "swelled and foamed and would not come," because, first—the acidity was too great, and second—the cheesey matter coated the globules so com-

pletely that the agitation of the cream did not cause them to adhere and so that the butter could come.

Under no conditions save a refrigerator where the temperature of the cream can be kept down to 40°, should cream be kept longer than thirty-six hours in hot weather; and if I did not have cream enough to churn that often, I would put in a pan of twelve hours old milk with it. It does not take long for the sugar in the cream or milk in hot weather to begin its lactic acid ferment, and if it goes so far that "bitter-water" or whey can be found at the bottom of the cream crock, trouble may be expected to occur in June and July churnings.

The only way I know of when one has but few cows is to keep the cream as cool as possible for about four milkings, stirring the cream thoroughly as each new batch is added. When ready to churn, bring the cream up to not more than 60°. If it is slightly acid to the taste, churn it over; if not, keep it warm and continue occasional stirring until the slight acid taste is perceptible and then churn, but at not over 60° in summer; 58° would be better.

Again, I am inclined to think that the milk of these four cows, mixed, would produce a cream that might give but little more butter than would that of the two fresh cows alone. The deep setting contains a much larger percentage of milk than that raised in pans, and being largely that of the farrow cows part of the cream would come before the rest and there would be a great loss of butter by unequal times needed in churning. For an experiment, set the milk of the "fresh" cows separate from the other two, and churn the cream of each separately and mark the results.

In reply to the second question, I would say, never churn more than two hours; if longer there is something wrong, and it is easier to find out the trouble than to churn for hours or two days. It is to be perceived that in the two days you "wore out" the butter globules and the cream actually became fluid. Churning for seven hours upon cream has been known to have so reduced the size of butter globules as to cause them to disappear even when looked for with a powerful microscope. The only way I have ever known where cream refused to come is often a proper time to stop churning and let the cream cool down

and the next morning finish it, or heat at least to 90°, then cool it back to 58° or 60° and churn. But the probabilities are that such butter when it does come will not be even of average quality.

Third.—Cream *can* be so warm as to prevent butter appearing. If you are not certain, your thermometer may be at least 8° out of the way—too high—in which case 73° would reach a stage with sour cream, when the operation of churning is to divide and sub-divide the cream globules; and if at last, the butter will appear, it will be in the form of “slush” butter, very hard to gather and get in shape. By keeping the cream in pure air and churning it as soon as slight acidity is noticeable at not over 60°, is about all that can be said about having cream ‘to come properly.’ At a creamery near me, the cream is churned after twenty-four hours, or sooner if acidity is noticed at 49° and 50°. The cream never swells. The butter is finely grained and granulated, never contains specks or flakes, and I apprehend that one of the chief causes which operates against more uniform results in farm butter-making, is failure in securing uniformity in cream, churning to sour cream in trying to ‘work out’ the butter-milk, instead of washing it out with weak brine and then allowing the air free access to the butter after it is made.

Fourth.—About the series of articles on “butter-making,” the correspondent must plead her cause before the “Bar of the Editor-in-chief” of the MARYLAND FARMER.

Ohio, July 5th.

J. G.

#### BUTTER-MAKING.

A New England dairy woman, on the subject of butter-making, writes common sense, in a communication as found below:

“Churning has made many a weary back. It will always be so, especially in cold weather, until people learn to have the cream at right temperature. Guessing at it is a good way to get tired. The cream should be put into a warm room several hours before churning. When the weather is freezing and it is very cold it must be placed by the stove and made warmer than the temperature of an ordinary room. In hot weather, of course,

it must be cooled. The cream may be warmed by putting hot water into the churn. It should show a temperature of about 64°—as near this as possible. It is so easy with a 25 cent thermometer to know the temperature of the cream that it seems queer everybody doesn’t have one. When the cream is too warm the butter will come, but it will be soft and white, and, of course, poor. It should be cooled when this is the case as soon as it is known to be too warm, with ice or cold water. If it is too cold, the cream will foam and swell, and it will not come. It should be warmed as soon as this condition is found out. When the cream gets very thick after churning awhile, and does not churn well, it should have a little warm water poured into the churn.

When the cream is very thick there is so much butter that it cannot float, and more liquid is required to get the butter into shape. Generally there is enough. There is no trouble of this kind when creameries are used, but when the cream is raised in pams, and it is thick and lathery, it is apt to do so. Some people run in a lot of sour milk to make more buttermilk and float the butter, but I don’t believe in sour milk in cream. It will get rancid if the cream is kept any time. It is better when the cream is too thick to add a little warm or cold water, as the case may be. I used to use a dash churn, but now I have a regular barrel churn, and it saves a heap of work and makes the handling of the butter so much easier. It takes longer, if everything is all right, to get the butter from sweet cream than sour. Don’t mix sweet and sour cream together just before churning, or the sweet cream will pass off in the buttermilk and be lost. Mix it ahead and stir it well.—Ex.

#### The Cost of Milk.

Experiments have been made at the Massachusetts Experiment Station to determine the cost of a quart of milk when feeding various kinds of food in different combinations. These consisted of bran, shorts, corn meal, gluten meal, (the refuse from glucose factories), hay, corn, fodder, and corn ensilage. The result is reported as follows: “In feeding bran or shorts, corn meal and gluten meal 3½ lbs. weight

of each were used. Two of the foods were also combined, making 6½ pounds to feed each cow daily, and at times a combination of the three kinds was used, making 9¾ lbs. feed daily to each cow. The remaining food was either hay, dry corn fodder or corn ensilage.

The highest amount of hay eaten by any cow in one day was 20 lbs., and of ensilage, 55 lbs. The apparent bulk of the ensilage over the hay, as shown by weight, may be explained by the fact that the hay is dry while ensilage is juicy. The highest cost of milk per quart was from a liberal hay and grain food, being 2.03 cents per quart. The milk produced at the lowest cost was from a moderate feeding of ensilage and corn meal, and was but 0.83 cents per quart. It may be noticed, therefore, that a quart of milk produced by feeding hay and grain costs as much as 2½ quarts produced by feeding ensilage and corn meal, and so far as the quality of the milk was concerned under the varying conditions of feed given, no serious alteration in its composition was noticed.

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**Don't Give Your Stock Away.**

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Shipping the fowls to market and receiving eight and ten cents a pound, while paying fifteen and twenty cents per pound for beef, is a losing business. No matter what the fowls may be worth in market they are equal—pound for pound—to any other kind of meat that can be procured. When you buy beef you cannot always feel assured that it is from cattle free of disease, or that it is of prime quality, but if you will consume your surplus poultry on your own table you will know just what you are eating, and will not only avoid assisting to still further lower the price, but can kill them off as occasion requires. Farmers do not use poultry at home to that extent which they should, and they can very materially aid in preventing "gluts" in the market by refraining from selling at this season. The beef soon decomposes, but live poultry will keep till wanted. Hence, we say, "Don't give your stock away and buy beef, but consume the poultry yourself."

**UNWORTHY CIRCULAR ON  
OLEOMARGARINE.**

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We have received a circular from Mr. Robert M. Littler, which we notice, not because of the writer, but because he signs himself "Sec'y of the National Butter, Cheese and Egg Association," &c. We consider it an ill-advised and very injurious publication, appealing to sectional prejudice, and doing the cause, it ostensibly advocates, an amount of injury which a long time will be needed to repair. We cannot conceive how any National or State Organization can keep a person like the writer of the above named circular in office, or countenance such a publication in any shape. It would appear to us that it was a circular which no responsible body of farmers would be likely to promulgate. We transfer to our columns a few sentences of the circular to show its animus and the point we make in our remarks.

"The attitude of Southern Representatives and Senators on the question of protecting an honest industry against a counterfeit and swindle, is stirring up feelings and thoughts in the minds of Northern farmers and consumers of dairy products not at all complimentary to the Southern Solons. It may be ignorance and stupidity, it may be party policy, or it may be sectional feeling that governs Southern Representatives and Senators; but the line of conduct which they are pursuing in regard to the suppression of counterfeit butter cannot be followed much longer without producing to them serious reaction in the North. Their conduct is watched with more than ordinary interest."

"It was not until disaster overtook them that the Southerners discovered there was anything wrong in human slavery. It appears they are now unable to see anything wrong in human rascality."

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## DEER CREEK FARMERS' CLUB.

## DISCUSSING BOGUS BUTTER.

The Deer Creek Farmers' Club met at the residence of Judge Watters, near Thomas' Run, Saturday afternoon, July 10th, Mr. R. John Rogers, president, in the chair. Messrs. Wm. Webster, John Moores and James Lee were appointed a committee to examine and report upon the condition of the farm, stock, &c. The duty being performed, Mr. Webster said, "it was pleasant to report upon a farm like Judge Watters. A great deal of the good order in which it is kept is due to Mr. Wm. Coale, Judge Watters' tenant. The stock cattle were bought at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  cents, and no doubt as much would be realized on them as on higher priced cattle. Judge Watters' Short-Horns are very beautiful. He has ten calves, which, probably can not be excelled in the State. He has eight or ten fine yearlings. His field of Timothy is good and corn looks healthy. If his wheat stacks turn out as well as they are pretty, he will have a large yield. In short, the committee were much pleased with the general appearance of the farm.

The club discussed the question, "Should the Manufacture and Sale of Imitation Butter Be Prohibited by Law?"

Judge Watters said, that in plain English the question is, should fraud be legalized? In that shape it answers itself. Butter is an animal product. It is the result of the action of vital forces and it is self-evident that it is impossible to produce it by chemical process. Anything produced by chemical action is simply an imitation, a counterfeit. A chemist can no more make butter than he can make a cow. The only value oleomargarine, butterine, &c. have is in their resemblance to butter. It is argued that if these substances are not unwholesome and you can't detect the difference between them and genuine butter by taste and smell, they are just the same as butter. The answer to this is simply they are not butter. You might as well say, that because you can't detect the difference between a counterfeit note and good money, the counterfeit is as good as the other. If the country were flooded with counterfeit money, unsettling the business interests of the country and

destroying the confidence in banks, you would not hear it said in Congress that a tax ought to be put on counterfeit money to protect banks. It seems absurd folly to talk about taxing imitation butter.

Judge Watters' idea was to absolutely prohibit the manufacture and sale of imitation butter by law, because it is a counterfeit and intended to deceive. The farmer don't ask to be protected against competition in the manufacture of butter, but against fraud. If the farmer will consent to the principle of protection for his butter, he must acknowledge the justice of protection for every other manufacture.

The question is whether the community ought to be protected against fraud. All imitations of butter are counterfeits, all counterfeits are frauds, and all frauds ought to be prohibited by law.

John Moores said he was much opposed to the manufacture of oleomargarine as anybody, but he did not see how its manufacture and sale could be prevented by law, provided it is made and sold as oleomargarine. Counterfeit money has no intrinsic and no representative value, but oleomargarine has a certain actual value. It is said to be wholesome as food and he did not see how in a free country we could go about to stop its manufacture, although it comes into competition with butter. He could not see that it was a fraud to make and sell it as oleomargarine. It should be marked as such and farmers might also be compelled to mark their butter.

R. Harris Archer said the point is to make the manufacturers of oleomargarine call it that. If you go into a jewelry store you may find brass and gold rings, sold at different prices, and buy which you please. He contended that there was no more wrong in making and selling oleomargarine as oleomargarine, than in making and selling brass rings as such, although the brass rings might resemble the gold ones.

Benjamin Silver, Jr., said, that no doubt the manufacture of oleomargarine is destructive to the dairy interests, and he would like to see any movement succeed that would suppress its manufacture, but at the same time he did not think it would be just and fair to prohibit it. The best way would be to tax it. Judge Watters, he thought, carried his simile between oleomargarine and counterfeit butter too

far. Counterfeit money is valueless in itself, but oleomargarine will support life. He had eaten it and found it not only a palatable, but a good article. It is only a counterfeit when sold as butter. Things should be prohibited because they are deteriorious to the health, morals or principles of the community. Oleomargarine is deliterious to none of these, and he did not see how in fairness and justice its manufacture and sale could be prohibited by law. He would like to see a prohibitory tax of say 50 cents a pound on it. If this is the only protection farmers can get let us have it. He would make a severe penalty for selling it as butter.

E. P. Moores regarded oleomargarine as an infringement on the old cow's patent and it ought to be legislated out of existence for the benefit of farmers. If taxed it should be taxed moderately, just so that it could scarcely compete with butter.

James H. Ball said that some months ago he read a movement in the Connecticut Legislature that struck at the root of this subject. This was, that every man who manufactured or dealt in imitation butter or put it on his table should be compelled to have it labeled "oleomargarine," "butterine," or whatever it might be. Taxing it will not reach the matter. It can be made at 5 or 6 cents a pound, and farmers can't possibly compete with it. Judge Watters' comparison of imitation butter with counterfeit money is not fair. It is food and any one who wishes to buy it as food ought to be allowed to do so. The beef producers of the West complain that the suppression of oleomargarine will reduce the value of their cattle \$3 per head.

*Ægis, Bel Air, Md.*

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**WORK IN THE GARDEN.**—In the garden clean up the places where early peas, potatoes and other crops have come out, and set late cabbages or sow a little corn in drills there. It will help to keep down the weeds that are too apt to be left to go to seed in such places, and it may result in a profitable crop. Stake up the tomato vines that they may not break down under the weight of their fruit. The vine will bear better and the fruit ripen more evenly, beside keeping up out of the dirt.

To the Editor of the Maryland Farmer.

**INCIPIENT SPLENIC OR MALARIA FEVER.**

It is thought by many cattle owners and breeders of stock, that there is always more or less taint of the malarial, splenic, or Texas fever among the cattle of our tide-water belt, from Maryland to Mexico. In this section it seldom manifests itself potentially, that is, there is seldom any serious outbreak of it with the native stock of the tide-water. Our own cattle seem to be inured to it, and resist it successfully—are acclimated, like our native vegetation.

Not so, however, with the stock of a non-malarial section. Take a cow from the mountains or the piedmont into the tide-water, and ten to one it takes the fever and dies within thirty days, if the time is the active malarial season. On the other hand, remove cattle from Norfolk to Richmond or Lynchburg, and they will suffer no inconvenience, experience no change in health. They remain entirely healthy themselves, but it is dangerous to herd them with the upland stock for sometime after their arrival.

This fact seems to support the theory that there is always more or less of incipient fever among tide-water cattle. And the fact that it does not harm them, but will harm those animals not acclimated to it, may account for a number of rather mysterious deaths that have from time to time occurred with Jerseys and other improved breeds brought from Richmond or the piedmont into the lower tide-belt.

We mention the fact—if fact it be—as of sufficient importance to make a farmer or breeder of the low country, either of Virginia or Maryland, cautious how he imports improved stock, at heavy cost, from non-malarial districts. Doubtless animals as well as plants have their proper zones, and as the acclimatization of animals may become, sometimes a costly job, it would be well, no doubt, if breeders looked to their own proper zone for additions or new strains to their herds and flocks. The caution, too, may well be heeded by men of the non-malarial sections: They should not mingle cattle indiscriminately.

Surry Co., Va.

B. W. JONES.

## EDITORIAL BRIEFS.

## WOMAN'S WORK.

It is our opinion that he will be a benefactor to the farming community who will discover or invent some means, by which, the women on the farm can be relieved from the greater amount of the hard work which now falls to their lot. In the best arranged farm houses, with the best obtainable help, the women of the household from earliest dawn 'till late in the evening are busy with heavy labors, while in the great majority of farm houses their work is almost slavish in its character, long continued and very heavy. Who will become this benefactor, this discoverer, this inventor, and bring relief?

## PARIS GREEN.

We caution Farmers against the use of paris green. It is a poison which does an incalculable harm, while it does but little comparative benefit. It kills a few potato bugs, and a few noxious vermin on trees; but at the same time it kills many birds who feed on insects, and many harmless insects which are more valuable than any of us can estimate. It is making sad havoc among bees, and when trees have been sprayed with it, the blossoms have been rendered barren in some cases. It is fast annihilating toads on farms where it is freely used, while many cases of some sickness in Farmer's families have been traced to it. Under the very best regulations, it is always a dangerous thing to handle.

## APPROACHING HOME.

Nothing is more satisfactory to the mind and heart than to see all the surroundings of our home buildings as we approach them in neat and perfect order. To observe the beauties of land and foliage improved to their full capacity. To see evidences of tasteful cultivation on every hand. Then,

if we chance to have a friend with us, to hear from his lips words of pleasure as he sees what we have done to make home beautiful as we approach it. And this is so easily done! It requires only an occasional touch of the master's hand to transform the most common place and heterogenous mass of rubbish into the sweetest lawn, the most romantic scenery or the bower of flowering vines and shrubs. Half of the enjoyment of our lives may come from this elevating and refining source; while we bestow as much happiness upon others as we enjoy ourselves in carrying towards perfection these surroundings of home.

## ATTENTION PAYS.

With eyes quick to see, mind active to plan and hand ready to perform, the condition of the Farmer's grounds is always at its best. The door-yard is free from rubbish, the paths free from weeds, the borders are even and well defined, the flowers are in good proportions, the trees free from suckers, the vines in their proper places, the garden a vision of usefulness and beauty. The barn-yard, too, shows the same spirit of good genius, even though more prosaic in its details. Its fencing is perfect, its gateways act without 'rub' or 'sag,' its paths are dry and clean, its sheds are sweet and rain-proof and the cattle which stand there in slick cleanliness chew their 'cuds' in evident content. If a purchaser comes to such a place all these things are in the Farmer's favor, and to how great an extent they add to his income in dollars he never knows. They are especial attractions, and the customer passes by his neighbors with cluttered and neglected grounds and drives up to his well kept and well provided yards without a moment's hesitation as to where he shall purchase.

## THE VANSVILLE FARMERS' CLUB.

The club met at the residence of Mr. J. D. Cassard, on July 10th; present thirteen members and several guests.

## Report of Committee on Inspection.

The committee, Messrs. Charles G. Emack, J. D. Warfield and Sommerfield Hall beg to report, that a thorough inspection of New Birmingham Place reveals much to admire and more to make one happy in the realization of country life. The stately mansion, dressed in new pea green and sobered down by the latest brown trimmings, is particularly fresh in the sunlight of a beautiful summer day. The lawn in clover invites us to believe ourselves in clover for the evening. Flowers and fruit, beautiful and tempting to both eyes and appetite, smile upon us as we walk around.

Mr. Cassard then began the discussion of the regular question, "How and When To Buy a Farm," by reading an essay upon the subject:

"In our beautiful country, between Laurel and Branchville, lies a stretch of hill and plain which is unexcelled, because of the following points: Health and unsurpassed facilities for communication with two of the most important and attractive cities of the Union. The land is very kind susceptible to easy improvement and specially adapted to any branch of agriculture. The husbandman can here be rewarded, and successfully in general tillage, trucking, fruit growing, or in any technical sphere that may attract his calling.

We have started the ball in earnest and at every revolution its velocity seems to increase. Popular opinion seems to gravitate to this part of our State, and far seeing men are already conjecturing on the possible improvements that are expected to occur in our day and generation.

As to when to buy a farm, I say now, for in my opinion, there will never be a time again when lands can be purchased at as low a figure as now. The pear is ripe; all it needs is some one to come and pluck it. Land is taking rapid strides; almost every day improvement is noted which is placing our community as an agricultural neighborhood in rank with well known and recognized farming centres.

As a matter of investment, pure and simple, a stranger could scarcely make a purchase of land in our midst that would not yield a handsome profit as an investment. Many beautiful and extremely desirable locations are still to be had at a very low figure, but the opportunities are growing less every day."

[Ed.—We rejoice to see the increased attention given by Farmers to club meetings and the discussion of agricultural topics. It is one of the most important steps in the way of progress, and we have repeatedly recommended it in our columns. We again urge these meetings for the great good they are bestowing upon those communities where they are regularly held warrants us in doing so. We also repeat, let these meetings be open to every one who cultivates a rod of ground or is otherwise interested in the subject of agriculture. Have them absolutely free to all agriculturists without secret grips or passwords, only insisting that the great agricultural interests of the country shall be kept supreme in their discussions.

## THE SILO.

COLUMBUS, Miss., June 25, '86.

Prof. F. A. Gulley,

Dear Sir:—At what stage of growth do you think corn makes the best ensilage? Your answer through *So. Live Stock Journal* will be of service to others as well as myself. With best wishes,

I remain etc., L.

The entire corn plant probably contains the largest amount of digestible food material when the kernels of corn are in the dough state, roasting-ear stage. After trying cutting at different stages in growth, hauling direct from field after cutting down and putting into silo, partially curing in the field before hauling, filling slowly and rapidly, putting up when wet and when dry, and getting all the information from other sources obtainable, we have adapted the following plan.

Cut the corn as the kernels on the ears begin to get hard, allow to lie on the ground in the sun six to twelve hours or

even longer if corn is very succulent, then hauling to cutter and run into silo, filling two or three feet per day without any tramping except to level down occasionally. We try to fill every other day, or fill two silos at a time, running into each on alternate days. We keep on filling until ensilage will not settle any more. Stopping three or four days during the filling will do no harm. We find first, that in filling in this way, we get rid of handling, and hauling so much weight from the field, the partial curing evaporating or drying off considerable water.

Second, the ensilage heats up quite hot in the silo when filled slowly and not tramped; and third, it comes out of the silo in the winter of a light brown color, a pleasant odor and without any sour taste or smell. Cattle seem to do better on it than on the sour ensilage we have made in previous years. Ensilage made in this way from nearly ripe corn, partially cured in the field, weighs in our twenty-two feet deep silos from 25 to 30 pounds to the cubic foot, instead of 45 or 50 pounds, as made from quite green corn filled in rapidly. As near as I can judge, one pound is equal to two pounds of the green-cut sour ensilage in value.

After several years experience, I find it requires much less skill to make ensilage of good quality than to cure hay from clover or the grasses.

Miss. Agr. College. F. A. GULLEY.

COAL ASHES.—It is generally believed that coal ashes possess little or no value for any agricultural purpose, and yet this is hardly the case. Even if they in themselves possessed no fertilizing properties, they still have a value as an absorbent for some purposes. They are excellent for earth closets, to which use they can be turned. But taking into account the instances where vegetable substances find their way into the coal fire, and the small amount of potash that they may contain, it is best for those farmers who indulge in the use of coal for heating purposes to save the refuse and utilize it either as a deodorize or direct fertilizer.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

## LIVE-STOCK REGISTER.

### SHEEP YET PROFITABLE.

The prices that have been realized for wool this season have been an agreeable surprise to the growers. While wheat cotton, corn, beef, etc., are going at prices that, in many cases, can not equal the cost of production, wool has sold at what must be considered at least a fair price. The figures it has brought compare with the figures other farm products are bringing in a way that ought to make the man who has held his sheep proud of himself, and awaken a feeling of shame in the breast of him who yielded to the scare of a year ago and sacrificed his sheep. The market had a good tone from the beginning; and the "boost" given the American markets by the great London sales, insured the wool grower a reasonably profitable price for his product. Sheep are yet profitable: and they would be profitable though wool was lower. The man who goes at the business intelligently and to stay in it, will find mutton growing profitable now—more profitable than wheat or cotton. For *good* mutton the demand has always in this country been greater than the supply, and it will be greater for some time to come. As with other farm products, the profit in mutton growing lies in having a *good* product to sell. Such mutton always finds a market and a price that leaves a handsome profit above cost of production.

Sheep have never been accredited with their true value in this country. It has been so easy for us to make money. Fertile land has been so plenty that we have neglected some things that are necessary to prosperous agriculture when land is reduced in productiveness and increased in price. It has been possible for us to make money by growing cotton, corn, wheat and hogs, and apparently these have been more

profitable than sheep; but the net profit has been small indeed, for while there has been a good annual income, it has been at the expense of our capital—each year we have lessened the fertility of the land. Now these products are not so profitable, and likely we will be compelled to pay more attention to sheep, for they are well suited to land reduced in fertility, and they are just the animals to increase the fertility of land. They will eat coarse food and get it where cattle would not, and from off land where the cultivation of cotton or corn would be difficult and unprofitable.

We are sure every reader would find sheep yet profitable, and especially those readers who have worn down farms.

#### LIVE STOCK IN MARYLAND.

##### A REMARKABLE BULL.

[Extracts from the Baltimore "Sun."]

In spite of the discrimination against the State of Maryland by some of the Western States, which forbid by proclamation of their Governors the introduction of any cattle from Maryland on account of the reported prevalence in this State of pleuro-pneumonia, Maryland is steadily increasing its herds of improved live stock of all kinds.

The Devon cattle, formerly so fashionable, are still very popular, and little can be said against them. In color and figure they are perfect, and are probably the oldest of all the breeds. They make fine beef, the best of oxen, and many of the families are high milkers in quantity and quality. They do better on short pastures than any of the breeds, and are specially in demand in Texas, for stock purposes. With so many excellent qualities the Devon has only the charge made against it of being smaller in size than the other beef breeds, but the differences are not so great, and many do not object to their size.

The Shoemaker herd, which was valued at something over \$100,000, has been broken up. At its head stood "The Black Prince of Linden," a magnificent animal,

who, in addition to his value for stock purposes, gave milk like a cow from four well-formed teats. A representative of *The Sun*, who is also a man of science, went to Burnside, Mrs. Shoemaker's place, in Green Spring Valley, and in the presence of witnesses milked the animal, so there could be no dispute about the matter in the future. The bull had never been attended to with any view of developing his milking peculiarity, but there is little doubt that with proper attention he would have given sufficient milk of the richest character to supply a small family. The skin of the animal was of the richest color, and the milk would occasionally drop from his teats as he walked. It was in this way attention was first called to his milking qualities.

Mr. G. S. Watts owns a fine herd of registered Guernsey cattle. Of the Holsteins, Dr F. W. Patterson, Charles K. Harrison and George O. Wilson each have fine registered herds. Mr. Harrison also has some fine Ayrshires. Mr. E. Gittings Merryman has a herd of Herefords of national reputation founded by his father.

It is stated that Mr. Edward Austen has bought a bull calf recently at a cost of \$2,500. Mr. Wm. H. Oler and Mr. Wallace King have also recently bought bull calves at large figures. Druid Hill Park maintains a flock of Southdowns, which supplies the whole country with breeding rams of the highest excellence. Mr. F. Von Kapff, in addition to his Jerseys, has a very fine herd of Berkshire hogs.

Mr. William T. Walters has a magnificent stud of Percheron horses at his place on Woodbourne avenue. Mr. Enoch Pratt, on a near-by farm, has a fine herd of Jerseys. The breeding stud of trotting horses, numbering over a hundred animals, is still kept up at Montebello, where it was established by the late John W. Garrett.

One of the first Jersey herds established in Maryland was that of Thomas H. Oliver, of Talbot, who continues it in perfection. General Joseph B. Seth has a choice herd of Jerseys. J. Carroll Goldsborough breeds Lincolnshire sheep of great size. Senator T. Tunis keeps good Jerseys. Mr. E. C. Legg, of Kent Island, breeds Cotswolds that have a record for mutton as well as for their long heavy fleeces. Senator E. E. Jackson, of Wi-

comico, keeps registered Jerseys, while Senator W. T. P. Turpin, of Queen Anne's, who is in the milk business, is now devoting his attention to Holsteins. Mr. E. B. Emory, also of Queen Anne's, keeps Southdown and Cotswold sheep, trotting horses, Short horn cattle and Berkshire pigs. It is said that during the Crimean war 50,000 bushels of wheat was sold off this farm at \$2.50 per bushel. Nearly all of these herds and studs of horses will be presented next September at the Maryland Agricultural and Mechanical Association fair, which will be held at Pimlico. The coming event is looked forward to with great interest. The purses for the trotting, pacing and running matches aggregate about \$10,000.

[ED.—We have for years been familiar with most of the herds referred to so graphically by the correspondent of *The Sun* in the above article. While we give this correspondent the credit of correctness in the many details he has given, we must acknowledge that when we have seen the Shoemaker herd we never observed and never had our attention called to the remarkable traits of the bull, "Black Prince," as above mentioned. We insert it, however, because of the positive assertion of personal trial by *The Sun's* representative.

#### Care of the Sheep.

It will sometimes happen that the yearling sheep, while shedding their teeth, will grow poor and have an unthrifty look for a few weeks, but if given a little extra feed and separated from the main flock for a short time will recover and soon be all right again. If a trough is provided in the sheep yard or pasture, and the inside of it daubed with tar, and a little salt sprinkled over the tar to induce the sheep to dip their noses in it, this will do much to prevent them from being troubled with "grub in the head." The grub is the result of an egg deposited in the nostril by a small fly known as the "sheep gad fly." This fly is usually to be found in sheep pastures during July and August, but as it does not like tar, any method of tarring the nose of the sheep will repel it.

#### Three Purposes of Sheep-Breeding.

The Dublin *Farmers' Gazette* names three objects in sheep-breeding there, or the division of the business into three branches, as follows:

These are, first, breeding for fat lambs, selling direct from the mother, feeding as largely as possible on succulent and milk-promoting food, so that the growth of the young animal will be quick and without check, and clearing off the whole crop of lambs before the quality of the meat has been injured by eating grass or any other food but that which they receive direct from the mother.

Second, the breeding of sheep, to be sold in store condition either as lambs or at a more mature age to men whose sole business is to fatten. This is a perfectly rational division of labor, eminently suited to the requirements of the country, and worked well when the value of sheep stock was high enough to pay both breeder and feeder.

The third consists mainly in feeding off the sheep for the butcher, the supply of stock, as has been noted, being drawn as required from other districts. It may, however, include, and in this country very frequently does, the breeding of the stock required; the double system working well and with more satisfaction to the farmer, as he can keep his young stock in more even condition than is always possible with those who can only breed stores, and moreover, if the soil is congenial, all animals seem to do better and enjoy better health on the farms where they were reared than they do when the climatic conditions and general surroundings have been changed.

THE HORNS OF CATTLE can be grown harmless by cutting around the upper side close to the root of calves at the age of five or six months, while the horn is soft. This will cause the horns to grow down and the points to nearly touch the cheeks, like Irish "knock-down" horned cattle, as described by Youatt in his history of English breeds.

Get your neighbor to subscribe for the FARMER with a premium, only one dollar a year.

## POULTRY HOUSE.

To the Editor of the Maryland Farmer.

### DISEASES OF POULTRY.

I am often asked how I manage to keep my poultry so free from the diseases which are the plague of our neighboring Farmers. It is merely a knowledge of the necessary conditions of poultry health. I do not say that this knowledge has come from study as much as from the mere casual observation of the quarters and management where disease has swept off our neighbor's flocks. It has come to us instinctively, as it were, and we act in harmony with the knowledge.

Most of the diseases of poultry result from the following causes, and if the causes are removed the diseases are avoided.

1. Neglect as to keeping their premises, especially their roosting houses in a cleanly condition. Week after week and month after month, no care is given whatever to removing their droppings; they are not even covered with earth in a majority of cases. The fact is, Farmers do not consider the matter of any importance until the chickens begin to die off rapidly.

2. The next great cause is from exposure in very damp quarters where the floors of their houses is soggy and wet, and the poultry from day to day suffer, because they cannot get their feet dry. It is fully as important for chickens to have dry feet as for human beings.

3. One among the great causes of disease is the lack of clean, pure water. Pure water is the greatest desideratum in the successful raising of poultry. It is astonishing how much water a flock will consume. At any time, pour out the stale water and fill up the drinking vessel with fresh, and every member of the flock will drink.

4. Some diseases come from improper feeding; but these are comparatively few. Where the chickens have considerable range, as upon farms, the feeding does not materially affect them.

5. Over-crowding is a very prolific source of disease: from crowding too many together, either in small quarters or upon roosts, rising one above another, or where the roosts are not extensive enough to accommodate comfortably the number kept.

I have instinctively as I said in the beginning avoided these causes of disease, and in all my experience I have had very few or no casualties in my flocks from disease.

Croup, cholera, vermin are avoided, and bright eyes, red combs, sprightly movements are the rule.

W. R. H.

### HOW FANNY PROPOSED TO CHANGE EGGS.

Fanny Field, in the *Prairie Farmer*, gives her experience in changing eggs in the following style, in which she is well recognized. Fanny strikes out wildly sometimes, but she was not far from correct reasoning this time. She says: "I know all about it, and I think a little more of my experience will fit in here. My neighbors didn't quite like it because I wouldn't 'swap eggs,' but it didn't take me long to bring them around to my way of thinking, and my prices. When the merchant's wife said that she supposed I would swap eggs with her because we were near neighbors, I reminded her that I always paid full prices for groceries bought at her husband's store; when the butcher's wife wanted to swap on the strength of the fact that her husband and mine were old army friends, I remarked that old army friendship didn't seem to affect the price of beef; and when the wife of a Shorthorn breeder came with a dozen of common eggs, and wanted to 'exchange,' I 'exchanged,' and the next morning I sent the hired man over with a common calf and a polite note asking Mr. B. to 'exchange' for one of his Shorthorn calves, of the same age. He didn't 'exchange,' but that evening he came over and paid my advertised price for the eggs. After that people didn't ask me to swap eggs, but later in the season when we occasionally sold a few dozen at the stores, we noticed that a good many of the neighbors set hens immediately afterwards; and occasionally we heard vague rumors to the effect that this one or that one would soon have 'some of them new fangled kind of chickens, and he wouldn't pay no \$2.50 for a dozen of the eggs neither.' One woman remarked to my hired man that 'that chicken woman would find out that she din't know everything.' That 'chicken woman' smiled

a smile that was 'bland, if not childish,' and waited; the people who had the eggs that we carried to the store waited too. After their hens had labored faithfully at the incubating business for some four weeks without hatching anything, two women called on me and declared their opinion of a woman who would spoil eggs for hatching before she sold them, so as to keep her neighbors from getting any chickens without paying \$2.50 a dozen for the eggs.' I had hard work to keep from laughing, but I managed to say that 'I didn't sell the eggs for hatching, and besides I didn't do anything to them.' Well then, why didn't they hatch?' asked both the women at once; and I replied: 'Simply because there has not been a rooster among our hens since we quit selling eggs.'

#### A Great Poultry Farm.

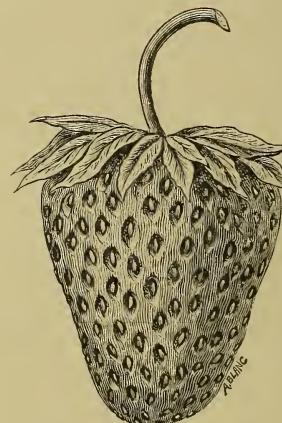
There is a great poultry farm of 8000 Plymouth Rocks at Lancaster, Mass. Mr. Hawkins, its owner, calculates to have about 8000 fowls every fall, and carries over 2500 laying hens through the winter. His farm contains twenty-five acres, and his poultry buildings occupy an acre and a-half. These comprise six or seven sheds 200 feet in length. Each shed is divided into compartments of 12 x 20 feet, and about twenty-five hens are kept in each division. A yard is made in front of each apartment. Mr. Hawkins believes that if confined poultry have their wants attended to they will do as well as if allowed free range. He bases this belief on several active tests. In hatching time he sets 200 hens in one day, and puts 500 eggs in an incubator, which is due to hatch on the same day, the chickens from which will be distributed among the 200 hens. His sales of fowls and eggs for hatching at fancy prices are large, about 90 per cent. being profit. He also has a standing order for sixty to ninety dozens of eggs daily, for which he gets the biggest market price. Mr. Hawkins began at the age of twenty-one, with 100 hens, and by careful management and economy his business has enlarged so that, at the age of twenty-nine, he has a very handsome income. The poultry manure is quite an item; he sold last year 500 barrels at \$1.50 per barrel.—*Boston Globe.*

#### HORTICULTURAL.

##### "HOFFMAN'S SEEDLING."

We give in this number a cut of the new Southern strawberry "Hoffman's Seedling," which, our friend and contributor, R. S. Cole of Harman's, Anne Arundel county, Md., is introducing to the notice of the public.

It originated near Charleston, S. C., several years ago, and is being grown largely in that section, as well as in several other parts of the South, to the exclusion of most of the older sorts. It is a large, firm, extra early berry, very productive,



hardy, healthy foliage, and can not be surpassed in color, shape and flavor. It is claimed by those who know it best to be earlier than the "Neuman" or "Charleston" berry—the leading early variety of the South. It is well known in the New York and Boston markets and brings at least one-third more than other sorts at wholesale. We have no doubt it will prove valuable as an early market variety. It seems thus far to have escaped the notice of Northern nurserymen and has worked its way thus far upon its own merits.

At the South Carolina State Agricultural Fair, in 1884, the "Hoffman" received first premium over all competitors. The

award of the judges was as follows, and speaks for itself: "We award to H. Hoffman first prize for his new seedling strawberry, as having everything requisite for a superior berry, in fact, we do not believe it has a superior."

#### CARE OF AN APPLE ORCHARD.

A writer in the *Cultivator and Country Gentleman* gives an account of a half-acre Apple orchard that, one season, produced \$750 worth of fruit. The orchard is in Orleans County, in this State, and at the time was about twenty years old. The fruit was sold at five dollars a barrel, and some fifteen or twenty barrels were reserved for the use of the family. About two years before this large crop was borne the owner commenced to treat the orchard as follows:

"He covered the ground, except a circle about three feet in diameter around each tree, heavily with coarse manure. This was done in the fall, and soon a deep snow fell on it and covered it, causing it to leach into the soil. When it was pretty well rotted, he turned his hogs into the orchard, and kept them there thenceforward continuously. When they did not root as much as he wished, he would thrust down his crowbar into a place which they had neglected, make a hole, and put in some corn and oats. They would find the grain, and root the ground for some feet around it to his entire satisfaction. They suffered nothing whatever to grow under the Apple trees. Naturally, this kept the ground extremely rough; but at picking time he would exclude his hogs, and harrow the ground into such condition that a wagon could be drawn over it comfortably."

The lack of manure and cultivation, and a general lack of proper care for orchards are the causes, in a great part of their sterility. Neglected orchards produce small quantities of small, poorly-flavored and poorly-ripened fruit. The orchard should be supplied with all the manure the trees can appropriate, and the trees will then be vigorous and will show it by a good growth of wood and handsome fruit. When the trees do not make a free growth of wood it is certain that they are in ill-condition

and need the assistance of fertilizers and cultivation—probably, also, judicious pruning, cleaning the bark and the destruction of worms and insects.—*Vick.*

#### American Horticultural Society.

The annual meeting of the American Horticultural Society, for 1886, will convene in the city of Cleveland, Ohio, September 7th, next, and continue three or four days.

A full programme of the meeting will soon be published which will embrace the leading names known to horticultural fame in this country, and some from abroad. Particular information can be had by applying to W. H. Ragan, secretary, Greencastle, Ind.

**APPLE BORERS.**—Almost every month in the year there is something that should be done in the orchard. Now it is the borers to look after. Look at the trunk of the tree near the ground for the chips thrown out, which look somewhat like sawdust. When found the hole will usually be found just above them. Next, with a sharp penknife enlarge the hole a little and put in a fine wire about as large as a knitting needle. This will easily follow him to his retreat and a slight thrust will stab him to death. If there is a slight crook in the wire near the point he may be drawn out, but if left there he will do no further harm.

#### Agricultural Exhibitions.

1886.

Maryland State Fair, . . . . .	September 13-17
Talbot County Fair, . . . . .	September 21-24
Cecil County Fair, Elkton, . . .	Sept. 28 to Oct. 1
Dover, Delaware, . . . . .	Sept. 27 to Oct. 2
Delaware State Fair, Dover, . . .	October 4 to 8
Richmond, Va., . . . . .	October 20 to 22
Raleigh, N. C., . . . . .	October 25 to 30
York, York Co., Pa., . . . . .	October 5 to 8
Lancaster, Lancaster Co., Pa., .	Aug. 30-Sept. 4
Towanda, Bradford Co., Pa., .	September 28-30
Bay State, Boston, . . . . .	October 5 to 8
New England and Eastern Maine, Bangor, Me., . . . . .	Aug. 31-Sept. 3
New Hampshire, Manchester, . .	Sept. 15 to 17

## THE COMING STATE FAIR.

The efforts being put forth by the executive committee of the Maryland Agricultural and Mechanical Association to make the exhibit in September such an attractive one as has hitherto been unknown in its history, are deserving success. There has never been that interest taken by the Maryland Farmers in their State society as such an institution deserved, or such as are given to like societies in other States. The cause for such apathy is hard to understand. The grounds and buildings of the society are unsurpassed for convenience of location or appointments. The track—one of the best in the country—and with the large number of finely bred herds of horses, cattle, sheep and swine, for which Maryland is noted, it has always been a cause for wonder on our part why the society's exhibitions of late years were not better attended.

We believe, however, the coming exhibition will be an exception and mark an era in the history of the society.

Whatever may be said as to the evils of racing, it is a fact which cannot be denied, that ninety-nine out of almost every hundred persons who attend fairs after they have devoted an hour or two in the examination of the class of stock or machinery in which they are particularly interested, like to retire to some comfortable place where they can have a rest and be amused.

The entertainments proposed for the coming exhibit are all of first-class character, and racing, such as heretofore has been unknown in Maryland, may be expected. It has not been forgotten that this is a Maryland society and for each day there has been arranged a race to be contested for exclusively by Maryland horses. First, is the stallion race, open to all stallions that have made spring races in Maryland, purse \$300.00; second race, for three-year-old colts owned and bred in Maryland,

purse \$300.00,—which entry ought to be well filled; third race, for four-year-old colts owned in Maryland prior to June 1, 1886, purse \$300.00; fourth, free for all horses owned in Maryland prior to June 1, 1886, purse \$500.00.

Besides these, the committee have in contemplation for Monday, the 13th of September, a race for double teams owned in Maryland, and three other races for that day.

A grand ball is to be held on the night of the 13th, when the grounds will be brilliantly illuminated with electric lights. In the various departments of live-stock it is hoped our Farmers will participate and put on exhibition their best, so that others seeing what they have accomplished may be incited to greater efforts to improve their own.

## Portland, Me.

We regret exceedingly that our engagements for the summer are such as to prevent our accepting the kind invitation of the Mayor and Centennial Committee of the city of Portland, to visit them and enjoy their anniversary Celebration. In this connection, we acknowledge the receipt of the "Historical Sketch of Cushing's Island," by Wm. A. Sargent, A. M., sent us with the compliments of the Mayor and Centennial Committee of Portland. It is a beautiful production and worthy of its source. Both in its illustrations and its fine work, it commands admiration, and its literary character is all that can be desired.

Subscribe to the MARYLAND FARMER, with a premium, only \$1.00 per year.

To the Editor of the Maryland Farmer.

**INDIA WHEAT AGAIN, AND SILVER.**

*Editor Maryland Farmer:*

Your quotation from Mr. F. C. Stevens' address before the farmers of Batavia, N. Y., touches upon a subject that deeply affects the farmers, *all* of them, everywhere in our broad country. The only trouble is it does not go deep enough.

How long are the producers of the great staple of our farms—the real rulers of our country—to remain blind to the real causes that have thrown such a pall over our fair land; a land teeming with natural wealth and possessed with as energetic and vigorous a race as ever lived?

Why is it that the half-civilized nation of India, thousands of miles away from the enlightened nations of the West, with the implements of a remote ancestry and with methods of cultivation painfully laborious and with no approach toward the wonderful system of transportation possessed by Americans, can of late compete with us?

With all the appliances that the most active ingenuity and persistent industry, combined to suggest and adopt labor-saving appliances which distinguishes our country above any other on the globe, we find that competition—and no fair, honest competition it is, as we shall show—is cutting closer and closer, 'till the prices of all our great staple articles of exportation are so low as to leave no margin of profit to our farmers and often an actual loss.

India's export of wheat to other countries was but 98,000 bushels in 1874, Mark! this is the year following 1873, *in which unknown hands* struck the first blow at our great national interests of wheat, cotton, corn and wool by *surreptitiously incorporating* into our "Revised Statutes" the words that demonetized silver and made that metal, which during the whole history of mankind had been with gold, the co-equal measurer of values, a commodity of commerce.

The whole history of our race shows that the use of the two metals as money is interwoven with man's progress, from nomadic life to modern civilization. Even Abraham for the field of Machpelah paid shekels of silver, "*current money*," which shows it was a legal-tender from the dawn of man's history.

We say surreptitiously, for it was no act of the people and no act known by them to be done; for we were under the green-back paper regime and used no silver, for it was actually at a premium above gold, and President Grant as late as 1875 declared his ignorance of the law and actually recommended the establishment of new mints to coin silver. The mischief was seen and a Congress in 1878 passed a bill providing for the *free coinage* of silver.

Our then President, as every Executive has since been and as our present one now is, appears to have been under Wall street influences and he vetoed the bill. A compromise measure was then passed over his veto providing for a limited coinage—the law now in force.

This law in nowise restores silver, as such, to its place. It only makes the Standard dollar *coined*, a legal tender.

Free coinage of silver—an open mint—alone can make silver of stable value like gold.

Gold is stable and unchanging now, because an act of the British Parliament compels the Bank of England to buy *all gold offered* at its counters at a fixed price, 3£ 17s. 9d. per ounce.

Silver would be alike stable in value if any great national mint would take all offered and coin legal-tender money.

Can America do this? Is she great enough and rich enough and strong enough to declare her financial independence?

The friends of bi-metalism say yes.

The goldites say no, that it will make our country the dumping-ground of the silver of the world.

This is the burden of all the arguments against free silver coinage.

Let us see.

This country is the greatest producer of silver. It is to-day unquestionably the wealthiest, and we export large quantities of silver bullion.

We are losing more annually on the two great staple articles of exportation, wheat and cotton, than the total annual production of the silver mines of the world, which was reported to be \$115,000,000 in 1885.

But \$20,000,000 of that product is estimated to be used in the arts. Silver is the life current of the industry and trade and the only coin (excepting the basis token

coinage of copper and amalgam) of nearly eight hundred millions of people who know no gold coin. It is the intimate daily medium of exchanges among the people of all Europe and even England, the head and front of monometalism, depends on silver. Peer and peasant alike use it in the vast daily exchanges.

With this vast demand for silver there can be no great accumulation of bullion, and enquiry shows there is none. *It is not the quantity, supply and demand that regulates the price.* Not at all. Selfish policy is at the bottom of it, and the holders of the vast amount of national, municipal and corporate indebtedness of the world are the chief beneficiaries.

*India never did and cannot now compete with America in cotton and grain production, if deprived of the enormous subsidy cheap silver gives the India exporter.*

And America is blindly supplying the *cheap silver* to destroy her own markets and trade, instead of coining it at home.

So we see India's exports spring up from nothing in 1873 to 45,000,000 bushels of wheat in 1884, and her cotton exports in about the same ratio, increasing just in proportion as silver is depressed and prices of commodities falling just as silver falls.

Raw cotton was actually landed in America in 1885 to the amount of over \$500,000 from India. But for our tariff laws, wheat would be landed in New York at a profit raised in India and *bought with American silver sold at seventy-five cents on the dollar.*

Was ever such suicidal policy known?

The remedy is in free coinage of silver which will restore silver to its place of honor held with gold during the ages.

Silver won't circulate say the advocates of gold. *There is more silver in circulation to-day among the people than gold.* Ask any observer if it be doubted.

As a metallic reserve in bank vaults it is as good as gold, and what better currency can we have than silver certificates convertible at will into specie. We are suffering from financial congestion.

With so much unemployed money—unemployed, because enterprise is checked and industry without its due rewards—bankers are opposed to any increase of money, and say, "we have more than we can use."

But an abundance of specie or of certificates backed by specie, dollar for dollar; is not inflation. No country ever had too much gold and silver money.

The present unholy war upon silver has deranged the commerce of the world and shackles industry, and is paralyzing enterprise.

The present forced relations of the two money metals is abnormal and without a parallel in history and it fully accounts for the decline of prosperity. Americans should act, and demand that the British system shall no longer be copied. It has well nigh ruined British agricultural interests and is causing distress in America.

The French are wiser, and maintain the bi-metallic policy and are the most prosperous people in Europe. A distinctive American policy, based upon the dollar of the fathers—the dollar of the founders of the Republic—will establish our financial, as well as their fortitude and foresight did our political independence.

Va.

J. W. PORTER.

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JULY REPORT FROM DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE.

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The area of corn is steadily increasing, with only the slightest impetus from foreign demand, and still less from the spirit manufacture.

**MARYLAND.**—The area of corn is only one per cent. below that of 1885, while its condition is much below what it ought to be, owing to late planting and excessive rains preventing its proper cultivation, though the weather has been peculiarly suited to its growth.

**VIRGINIA.**—The corn area is nearly an average with that of 1885, and has been worked several times; where the ground is in good condition and the rains frequent, is making a fine growth.

The harvest of winter wheat is over in the South, and in progress in the northern belt. It has not quite answered expectations before harvest, and some has already been injured by rains after harvest.

The condition of oats is lower than in any former July report since 1879, when the yield averaged twenty-five bushels per acre. Present Condition is 88.8, against 87 in July of that year.

The average for rye is 95.6, against 87 last year. One hundred or above in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia and Missouri, and nearly up to 100 in the Ohio Basin.

The condition of barley is somewhat lower at the present date than at the 1st of July in any recent year, yet the difference is not sufficient to reduce greatly the prospective yield.

The area of potatoes is increased slightly; acreage 101.3, as compared with last year.

In all the Atlantic States and in the Gulf States, as far west as the Mississippi River, the pastures have in general been favored by moist cool weather, and are in exceptionally good condition.

There has been a slight falling off in the condition of apples since the first of June, the young fruit dropping badly as it advances to maturity.

The crop of timothy is generally good in the New England and Middle States, though there are some counties in which it has suffered materially from drought, and some old meadows have not recovered from previous injuries arising from the same cause.

#### The Bay State Show at Boston.

Cattle, 8 gold medals and.....	\$3,807.00
Horses, 1 gold medal and.....	2,355.00
Sheep.....	1,625.60
Swine.....	1,075.00
Poultry.....	828.00
Grain and vegetables.....	698.00
Dairy products.....	476.00
Flowers and plants.....	496.00
Fruits.....	718.00
Domestic manufactures.....	251.75
Grand total.....	\$12,329.75

[Ed.—This looks like an exhibition for Farmers; not for side-shows and gamblers.]

#### Farmers National Congress.

Governor Lloyd has appointed the following persons to represent Maryland in the Farmers' National Congress, which meets at Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 28th: Col. James Wallace, Col. Wm. McKeeney, Col. Wilmot Johnson, Hon. J.

Carroll Walsh, Oliver L. Bryan, Hon. Lloyd Lowndes, Outerbridge Horsey, Ezra Whitman, Robinson W. Cater, ex-Gov. Wm. T. Hamilton, Col. Edward Lloyd, Hon. Charles B. Roberts, and Samuel B. Brooks.

#### Books, Catalogues, Publications, &c.

CATALOGUE of the Maryland Agricultural College received. It shows a large array of prominent agriculturists among its lecturers, and exhibits evidence of prosperity during the past year. Its professors and lecturers are among the best scholars and most successful men of our times in their various departments. Situated so near the National Capital it enjoys unusual opportunities in these respects to make it one of the most successful colleges of this kind in the Union.

REPORT of Department of Agriculture for 1885 received. We shall examine it at our leisure and comment from time to time on its contents, as the occasion may require. We are pleased with the method of Commissioner Colman in its arrangement.

Also, the Report of the Entomological Commission by Prof. Riley is at hand, for which many thanks. We cannot pretend to notice it properly until thoroughly examined.

TESTIMONY before the Senate Committee on Agriculture in Regard to Imitation Dairy Products. We have read portions of it with a great deal of interest and shall examine it more at large as a subject which will always interest the agricultural community.

THE Descriptive Priced Catalogue No. 3 of Ellwanger & Barry. Pot Grown and Layer Strawberry Plants sent free to all applicants. It contains nine standard and four new American varieties, and six foreign varieties.

CATALOGUE of Roanoke College, Salem, Va. is received, as also the Roanoke *Collegian*. The catalogue shows abundant evidence of the College's success, and the *Collegian* gives numerous items which would interest the patrons of the College, as well as many other items of general interest.

WE have just received a copy of Number Thirty-one of Ogilvie's Popular Reading—seven stories. All are printed in large type, with handsome colored lithograph cover, also a handsome frontispiece, printed in twelve colors. The price is 30 cents and it will be sent by mail, post-paid, on receipt of price, by J. S. Ogilvie & Co., Publishers, 31 Rose Street, N.Y.

THE  
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A STANDARD MAGAZINE,  
DEVOTED TO  
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Advertisements to secure insertion in the ensuing month should be sent in by the 20th of the month.

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Personal.

IT has always been our custom to spend a few weeks at the sea-shore each summer and we do not now feel like changing the custom. As soon as this Number of the FARMER is mailed we expect to leave for Bar Harbor, stopping over a few days at Old Orchard to enjoy the excellent surf bathing at that place. We shall attend the New England Fair, at Bangor, Maine, the first week in September and visit other fairs and places of agricultural interest.